

December 8, 1940

THE

SPIRIT

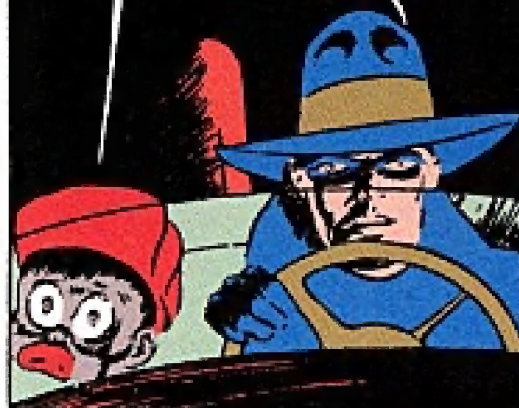


AUTUMN HAS GIVEN WAY TO WINTER... A COLD RAIN THAT POURS STEADILY FROM A MIDNIGHT SKY TURNS THE CROOKED ROAD LEADING UP MYSTERY MOUNTAIN INTO A WINDING RIBBON OF MUD..... AIDED BY ITS POWERFUL HEADLIGHTS WHICH PICK OUT EVERY TREACHEROUS TURN, *THE SPIRIT'S AUTOPLANE* PLOWS UP THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE TOWARD THE SUMMIT WHERE A SOLITARY HOUSE STANDS IN WEATHER-BEATEN MAJESTY AGAINST THE SKY.....



C CAN'T WE COME UP HEAH IN THE MAWNIN'?

NO!!!... NOW, FOR THE LAST TIME I'M TELL-ING YOU, EBONY... WE MUST FIND SOME TRACE OF MR. CLACH'S WILL BEFORE MORNING!



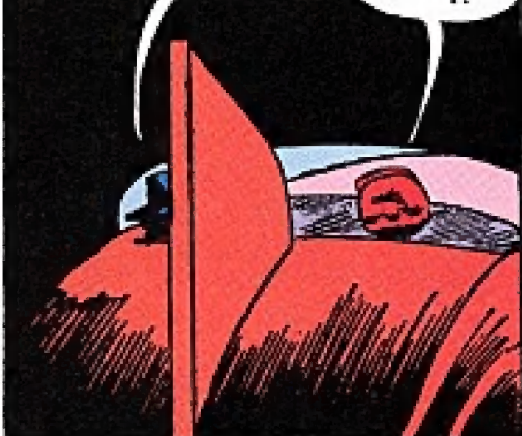
IF WE DON'T NIFTY NICK THE GAMBLER, WHO TOOK OVER THE MORTGAGE AFTER MR. CLACH DISAPPEARED 10 YEARS AGO, WILL FORECLOSE ... AND TURN THE OLD HOUSE INTO A NIGHT-CLUB AND GANG HIDEOUT!

YASSUH.. AH KNOWS YO' WANTS TH'STATE OLD FOLKS HOME TO GIT IT, BUT MIDNIGHT AIN'T NO PROPER TIME TO SEARCH FO' SECRIT PAPUHS IN A HAUNTED HOUSE!



YES.. COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS WOULD MAKE A SWELL OPENING SCENE FOR A HORROR MOVIE... WE SURE HAVE THE REAL THING! HA-HA-HA!

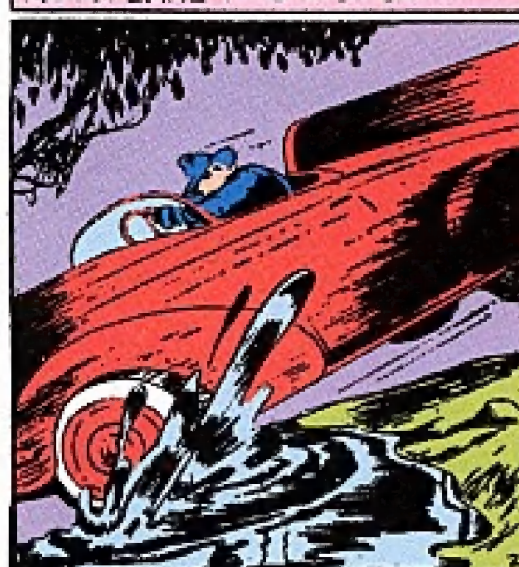
HA HA- AH- AH- COULD DIE LAUGHING !!

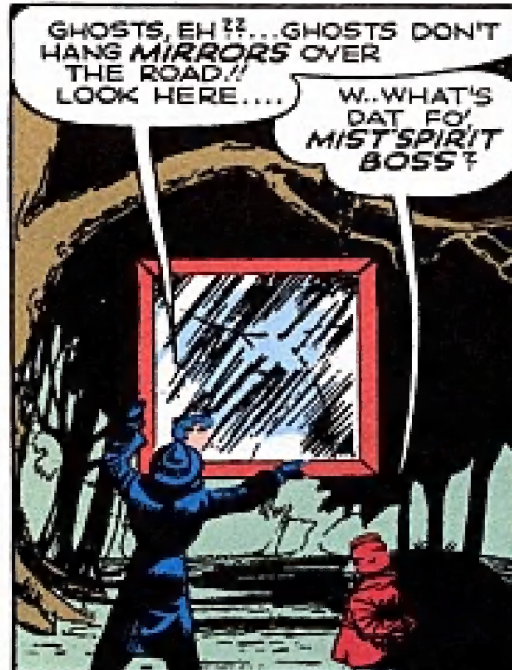


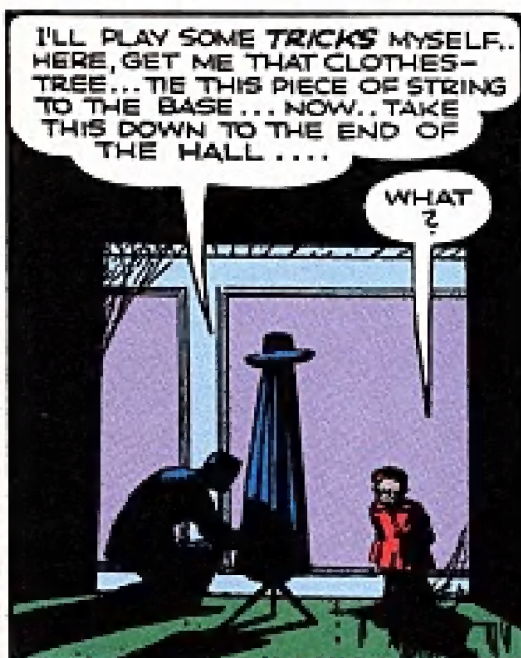
SUDDENLY... JUST BEFORE THE HOUSE TWO HEADLIGHTS RUSH OUT OF THE DARKNESS TO MEET THEM.....



DESPERATELY *THE SPIRIT* SWERVES TO AVOID A CRASH... RUNNING THE *AUTOPLANE* INTO A DITCH....







SUDDENLY A SLIDING PANEL OPENS...
AND A POWERFUL FIGURE JUMPS
UPON **THE SPIRIT'S EFFIGY...**



THE SPIRIT LEAPS...



BUT THE ASSAILANT PROVES TOO
STRONG, EVEN FOR **THE SPIRIT..**



SUDDENLY...

SAM!!



**AND THE MAN HALTS ... HE RISES
MECHANICALLY...**

YOU MUST EXCUSE
MY BROTHER... YOU
SEE, HE'S NOT... ER...
RIGHT!



**WHY...!! STEVEN
CLACH!..... I
THOUGHT YOU WERE
DEAD... WHY....**

I'VE BEEN
LIVING
HERE
THESE
TEN YEARS
... WITH MY
POOR BROTHER
SAM!



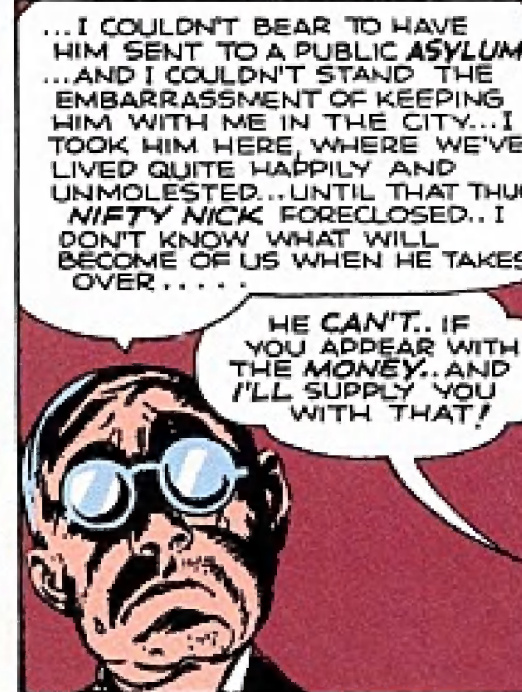
TELL ME THE
WHOLE STORY...
I'M YOUR
FRIEND...

SAM WAS A
GREAT
SCIENTIST...
BUT HARD
WORK AND STUDY
SNAPPED HIS
DELICATE **BRAIN..**
HE BECAME..... AS
YOU SEE HIM NOW..



...I COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE
HIM SENT TO A PUBLIC **ASYLUM**
...AND I COULDN'T STAND THE
EMBARRASSMENT OF KEEPING
HIM WITH ME IN THE CITY... I
TOOK HIM HERE, WHERE WE'VE
LIVED QUITE HAPPILY AND
UNMOLESTED... UNTIL THAT THUG
NIFTY NICK FORECLOSED.. I
DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL
BECOME OF US WHEN HE TAKES
OVER....

HE CAN'T.. IF
YOU APPEAR WITH
THE **MONEY..** AND
I'LL SUPPLY YOU
WITH THAT!



LOOK!! HERE
COMES **NIFTY**
AND SOME OF
HIS MEN NOW!!

WE'LL GET RID
OF THEM....
EBONY HOW'D
YOU LIKE TO
BE A
GHOST?

YASSUH... BUT
AH'M GONNA BE
A AWFUL **SCARED**
GHOST!

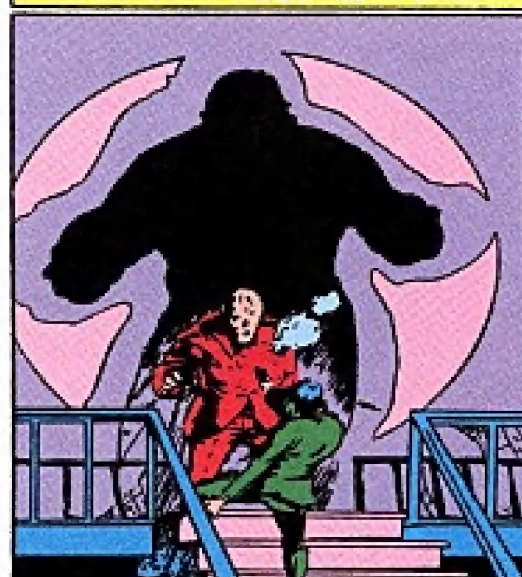




FRIGHTENED, NIFTY BACKS AWAY, PUMPING SHOTS INTO THE ON-COMING HULK....



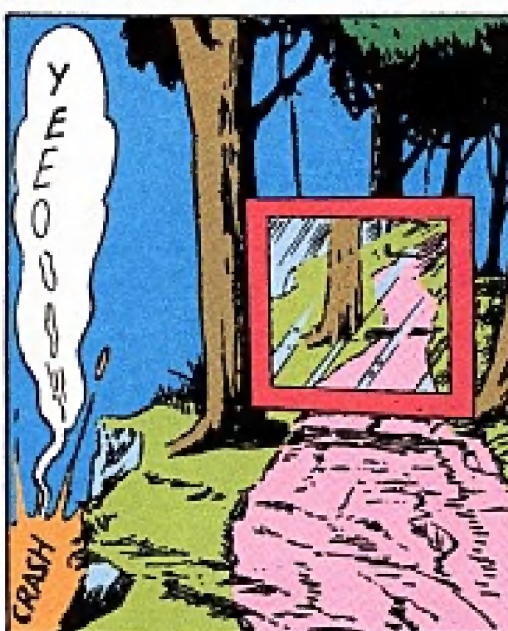
BUT SAM DOES NOT FLINCH.



TERROR-STRICKEN, NIFTY RACES TO THE CAR...



HALF MAD WITH FRIGHT, HE SWERVES..HURTLING OVER THE CLIFF....



BACK IN THE OLD HOUSE...



AND AS THE DAWN BREAKS OVER WILDWOOD....

